

**DOWNTOWN INDUSTRIAL DISTRICT
BUSINESS IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
JANUARY 31, 2012
MINUTES**

BOARD MEMBERS

Present: Howard Klein, Matt Klein, Larry Rauch, Mark Shinbane, and Paul Vert.

Absent: Ernie Doizaki, Richard Gardner, and Bill Shinbane.

STAFF: Herlinda Chico, Raquel King, Estela Lopez, and George Peterman.

CONSULTANTS: Ken Coelho, Steve Gibson, and Don Steier.

GUESTS: Joseph Collins (Inner City Arts), and LAPD Senior Lead Officer Jack Richter

I. CALL TO ORDER

Rauch called the meeting to order with a quorum at 11:39am. Rauch thanked Vert for his leadership as the former Chairman of the Board.

II. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Public Comment: Deacon Alexander of LA Occupied Inc., Gary Doatwright, and T.C. Alexander.

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Vert made a motion to approve the October 25, 2012 minutes, and H. Klein seconded. The Board unanimously approved.

IV. INNER CITY ARTS

Joseph Collins introduced himself to the Board, and informed them that he is the new President & CEO. Collins reported that Inner City Arts currently has 900 students, and over the next

seven weeks he will be working towards increasing activity in the theater. Collins stated that he is also working on figuring out a solution to parking issues for staff. Collins stated that overall everything is going very well and excited to be here.

V. FINANCE

Coelho reviewed the December financial report with the Board:

- a. Coelho reported that the BID ended the month of December with just over \$8,000 in the bank.**
- b. Invoices received in January consist of 2011 accrued expenses, and will be paid with 2011 funds.**
- c. 2011 assessment receivables just over \$140,000; \$94,000 was budgeted; therefore budgeted delinquencies were off by \$50,000. DID received \$20,000 of delinquent assessments from 2010 during 2011.**
- d. Expenses in-line with budget**
- e. Security budget was slightly over for the year; total expenses were over \$58,000. Received 2010 delinquent assessment revenue and \$28,500 of penalties during the year.**
- f. Received the first batch of assessment funds; a little over a million for two BIDs. The line of credit will be paid off.**

VI. BID RENEWAL

Gibson informed the Board that DID is one year earlier than normal, but with talking to the City it is a good idea to start early. City staff resources have decreased, which slows the renewal process.

Gibson reviewed the following:

- a. DID's term expires 12/31/14**
- b. City Clerk's process of approving MDP and Engineer's Report is now 5 plus months.**
- c. Renewing early does not change end date**
- d. Determination of term. Every year and a half staff is in renewal mode because of two BIDs, which is a big load on a very small staff.**

Rauch asked Gibson to present a renewal timeline at the next Board meeting. Lopez suggested organizing a renewal committee and asked for volunteers. Rauch, H. Klein, and Shinbane volunteered. Lopez stated that the renewal committee will meet and present recommendations to the Board at the next quarterly Board meeting.

VII. OPERATIONS

Peterman reported that the BID public safety officers handled 2,011 incidents in October; 2,166 in November; and 2,110 in December. Blocking the sidewalk accounted for 24% of the incidents during the quarter.

Peterman reported that the BID trimmed trees in January; 82 trees in total. 52 were fichus, and 30 were others that varied in type. The Board approved a budgeted amount of \$15,000 to trim the trees. The actual cost was \$14,000. Peterman informed the Board that the fichus trees on Alameda Street, 7th to 8th Streets still need to be trimmed, which will cost an additional \$5,400.

Rauch made a motion to approve the additional \$5,400 from the DID 2 account for the trimming of trees on Alameda Street, 7th to 8th Streets, and Shinbane seconded. The Board unanimously approved.

Peterman reported that the amount of trash collected throughout the District has increased. During the 4th quarter 2011, the maintenance team collected 14,319 bags of trash compared to 10,997 in during the 3rd quarter 2011. Peterman reported that in 2011, the maintenance team collected 47,704 bags of trash; removed 316 instances of graffiti; removed 1,709 bulky items; and weeded 525 areas in the District.

Peterman informed the Board that complaints had been received from homeless individuals stating that there is too much trash on the streets, and requested extra pressure washing.

Peterman reminded the Board that most often the BID public safety officers are the first responders on the streets. Almost daily, the BID public safety officers encounter situations in which homeless individuals need emergency medical attention, or worse, have expired. The officers make contact with homeless individuals daily for that reason.

LAPD Update:

Senior Lead Officer

Officer Richter reported that there has been a significant crime reduction in Central Area compared to January last year. Crime in Downtown is reduced because deployment matches the need.

Officer Richter thanked H. Klein for donating event space for the LAPD Cadet fundraiser.

Skid Row Walk:

Lopez thanked several Board members for attending the January Skid Row Walk. She informed the Board that a group of students from USC's urban planning class will be attending the February walk.

Steier provided an update regarding a lawsuit filed by a LACAN member as a result of his arrest at the Skid Row Walk. The member was arrested for interfering with a public assembly/walk penal code 403, which prohibits interference with the rights of others. The member filed a lawsuit stating the arrest was unconstitutional. The court ruled that P.C. 403 is not unconstitutional and can be enforced.

Lopez stated that hopefully both parties can co-exist peacefully and respectfully.

Deacon Alexander stated that CCEA could avoid conflict by not showing up to walk monthly.

VIII. EXECUTIVE SESSION

The Downtown Industrial District BID Board recessed to Closed Session, pursuant to Government Code Section 54956.9(a), to confer with its legal counsel relative to personnel matters.

IX. ADJOURNMENT- Prior to adjournment, the Board unanimously agreed to move the April 17, 2012 Board meeting to May 1, 2012 because of scheduling conflicts. The meeting of the Board was adjourned at 1:10pm.